



FLORIDA SUPERVISORS OF ELECTIONS

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July 22, 2020

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2020 - 2021

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General Counsel

Ronald Labasky, Esq.

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
1236 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
2468 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Leader McConnell, Speaker Pelosi, Leader McCarthy and Leader Schumer:

Here in Florida, Supervisors of Elections are operating in the new epicenter of the coronavirus while preparing for record voter turnout in the 2020 General Election. As we prepare for the most challenging election of our time, we are asking for your help.

The \$20.3 million in CARES funding that the State of Florida received is being put to good use, and we thank Congress for making those much-needed funds available. But as county Supervisors began allocating those funds, many found they still came up short. Therefore, my colleagues and I are urging you to include substantial additional funding for elections in your next coronavirus stimulus package to ensure that we can conduct accessible and safe elections in this challenging environment.

Florida is fortunate to have three established methods of voting, and all three methods must be preserved and promoted. Voters should not have to experience long delays or difficulty casting their ballot, nor should they have to choose between their health and their right to have a voice in our democracy. It's expensive, but imperative, to set up safe, healthy polling places for our in-person voters, and to ensure we have the supplies and staffing necessary to meet an increased demand for Vote By Mail. We are purchasing cleaning and sanitation supplies, personal protective equipment, and other resources that have never been part of our election budget before. Internally, our costs are higher, too, as we staff and organize our workspaces to ensure a healthy environment with minimal interruption and continuing operations from now through November.

We are accustomed to planning for contingencies, but this year we need more financial help to do so. As Florida's Supervisors of Elections, we will do everything within our means to protect the welfare of our citizens, preserve their inalienable right to vote, and conduct elections that are fair and accessible to all. We ask that you join us in protecting the sanctity of our elections by increasing funding so that we can do our very best for our communities, and our democracy. Thank you for your consideration and your leadership.

Sincerely,

Craig Latimer
President, Florida Supervisors of Elections